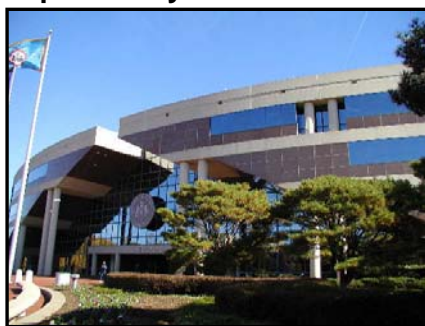


Expand Recyclables Collected at Government Buildings



Fairfax County Government generates a significant quantity of MSW; the county employs 11,400 people full-time and maintains over 7 million square feet of space in 150 buildings. The Fairfax County Government currently mandates the recycling of the principal recyclable material within its buildings. By expanding the required recyclable materials in county

managed buildings, the county can help increase recycling rates. Integral to this effort is extensive “publicity” within the organization and employee education about recycling practices. Implementation of this initiative will be coordinated with the Employee Recycling Committee.

Expand MSW Recycling in County Schools

Schools (public and private, primary and secondary) in Fairfax County generate large quantities of paper that is often not recycled. By expanding paper recycling in schools through additional collection containers and education, the county can increase recycling rates while using minimal resources.



County staff will partner with the Clean Fairfax Council to expand and enhance its efforts to develop programs with the public and private schools in the county.

Increase MSW Recycling Inspections

By increasing adherence to recycling requirements, the county can promote increased recycling rates. County Code, Section 109-1-2, provides authority to enforce compliance with Chapter 109 recycling requirements through use of civil penalties. The county can enhance compliance with county code through increasing inspections and enforcement procedures, if public education programs are not generating increased recycling.

Find Suitable Recycling Alternatives for Multiunit Buildings



Fairfax County can employ a series of best practices to improve the recycling participation rate in multiunit buildings. These buildings, which range from duplexes to high-rises, are a challenge to cost-effective and convenient recycling services because many of the older buildings simply do not have enough space to allow for recycling containers

inside the buildings. The county will evaluate best practices to maximize the success of multiunit recycling.

Fairfax County may consider increased requirements for recycling in new construction designs, specifically providing for collection of multiple materials. Retrofits of existing multiunit building are more challenging, but staff will work with individual properties to encourage the maximum amount of recycling for the space available, such as single-stream recycling. Input from the management companies and residents of these buildings will be considered also in planning for the retrofits.

EPA has suggested the following best practices for multiunit building recycling:⁸

- *Containers.* Equip buildings with large containers. Optimally, communities should furnish one set of containers for each group of 15 to 19 households.
- *Collection.* High diversion rate communities typically collect nonstandard materials, including phone books, magazines, mixed waste paper, old corrugated cardboard, and other plastics.
- *Participation.* Recommend establishing a mandatory program, with fines or other sanctions for multiunit buildings that violate the regulations.

Continue Using the Current Yard Waste Recycling System



Fairfax County prefers to continue the use of brush mulching and out-of-county composting facilities for the recycling of yard waste. Fairfax County can guarantee yard waste composting capacity over the SWMP planning period by contracting for capacity at out-of-county facilities. The county currently sends yard waste for composting at two out-of-county facilities, the Prince William County Compost Facility at Balls Ford Road and Loudoun Composting in Loudoun County. These

facilities and others may be willing to guarantee yard waste composting capacity for Fairfax County.

Promote Additional Waste Exchanges among Jurisdictions

County staff will pursue additional waste exchanges with other jurisdictions to help with reuse/recycling of materials. The existing program with Prince William County has been very successful in allowing additional yard waste from Fairfax County to be recycled (composted)

⁸ EPA, *Multifamily Recycling: A Golden Opportunity for Solid Waste Reduction* [online document]. April 1999 [cited October 2003]. Available from <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/multi.pdf>.

while disposing of Prince William County MSW in the waste-to-energy facility instead of landfilling it.

Encourage VDOT to Use Recycled Materials in Road Construction



Fairfax County can increase CDD recycling rates by encouraging VDOT to use recycled materials in road construction. VDOT uses high volumes of concrete in construction projects. By incorporating recycled materials, including reclaimed asphalt pavements, crumb rubber and scrap PVC plastic into various concrete construction applications, VDOT

can significantly reduce CDD disposal requirements as well as conserve limited resources. Research by the Texas Department of Transportation supports the feasibility of substituting “recycled asphalt pavement or scrap plastic for up to 10 percent of the coarse aggregate in portland cement concrete, and substituting crumb rubber for up to 10 percent of the fine aggregate in portland cement concrete.”⁹

Moreover, VDOT has been asked in the past to use crushed glass in its road construction projects and has not agreed to use that material. Efforts will be made to have the county legislative committee or the County Executive notify VDOT of the county’s desire to have VDOT explore using various recycled materials in its work.

Support Expansion of MRF Capacity

With projected increases in recycling quantities resulting from these SWMP actions, Fairfax County may exceed existing MRF capacity over the SWMP planning period. If recyclables exceed MRF capacity, Fairfax County will support the necessary expansion of the private MRFs (e.g., permitting).

Continue Using the Current Special Wastes Management System

Fairfax County prefers to continue its current special wastes management system (described in Chapter 9) over the SWMP planning period.

Disposal

Disposal management methods, including resource recovery (or waste-to-energy), incineration, and landfilling are at the bottom of the waste hierarchy. Resource recovery is preferred to landfilling since the method reduces the bulk of municipal waste and can provide the added benefit of energy production.

⁹ The University of Texas at Austin Center for Transportation, *Investigation Into Organic Scrap Material Substitutions In Portland Cement Concrete*, Research Report 1349-1F. May 1996.

Table 11-4 presents actions selected by Fairfax County for the disposal of solid waste in the county over the next 20 years.

Table 11-4. Fairfax County Disposal SWMP Actions

Disposal SWMP Actions
Continue using the current disposal system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – E/RRF as primary with out-of-county landfills for overflow amounts – CDD landfills both in- and out-of-county; contract with CDD landfills for dedicated disposal capacity
Use out-of-county landfill for MSW disposal, if negotiations with Covanta Fairfax, Inc. (CFI) are unsuccessful
Foster a regional approach for CDD disposal
Improve public outreach and education, specifically for CDD disposal capacity issues

Continue Using the Current Disposal System



Fairfax County prefers to continue the use of the E/RRF for the disposal of MSW. During times when waste disposal volumes exceed the storage capacity of the E/RRF, the county sends waste to other disposal facilities, typically out-of-county landfills. As Fairfax County waste generation nears capacity of the E/RRF, the county

can lower the amount of non-county waste sent to the facility. However, when the county MSW generation rate exceeds the capacity of the E/RRF, the county must find alternative disposal methods for the overflow MSW, either in landfills or other disposal facilities.

As discussed in Chapter 6, the current operating agreement with CFI will expire in 2011. Fairfax County has several options concerning use of the E/RRF past this date:

- *Contract Renegotiation.* One option for Fairfax County is to renegotiate the contract with CFI when the current contract expires in 2011 to extend the use of the E/RRF. Extending the contract would allow Fairfax County to continue to dispose of its MSW through the E/RRF.
- *E/RRF Purchase.* Another option for Fairfax County is to purchase the E/RRF from CFI and assume responsibility for its operation. Four primary issues are associated with selecting this option:
 - Operating the E/RRF must be economically viable for the county.